



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

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Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence and a self introduction.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio
Ann S. Hill
Barbara Bigby
John Hammargren
Carl Moore

Excused Absence

Rita Hall

Guest

Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
William Kiriya, Internal Services Department
Jennifer Ruiz, Department of Mental Health
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor Controller's Office
Mike Varela, Probation Department

Staff

Lee Millen
Nyla Jefferson
Roy Sinclair

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Department of Children and Family Services

Barbara Butler, DCFS, reported on foster incidents and data regarding general neglect, sexual/physical abuse, and runaways (copy on file). There were 281 runaways. Dorothy Channel, provided *DCFS, Life on the Line* July 2010 Publication; and the Daily Bulletin article, *Ex-Foster children on Track for Success* (8/16/10). She also included an invitation for the Commission to attend "Foster Idol", two scheduled events – one day concert for foster children on September 5, 2010 at Club Nokia.

In response to Commissioner Hammargren, Ms. Channel advised that AB 490 requires school districts to enroll a foster child in their school although all the paperwork is not available. In response to Vice Chairperson Bacio, she noted that the Group Homes' Program Statement will indicate the Staff/Client ratio; Community Care Licensing would know if the Program Statements are required on the premises.

Staff reported that CCL and DCFS had been contacted regarding staff to client ratios, and a statute had been received that does not specifically note an exact number required for Group Homes. CCL has been contacted for further clarification on Group Home Program Statements and its compliance with required ratios.

Internal Services Department

William Kiriama, Internal Services Department, reported that the Youth Career Development Program (copy on file) is a 24-month paid internship program for emancipated foster youth. The cycle of employment began with seven youth; one was terminated, two are in ITS communications, one is in the power plant, one in Administration Finance, one in procurement, and one in clerical. Since the year 2000, ISD had enrolled 98 interns, and of the 68 that graduated, 51 have been hired by ISD, 14 have outside employment, and two are in college. The foster youth are referred to Department of Human Resources by DCFS.

Auditor Controller's Office

Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor Controller's Office, reported that Mr. Henricks is presently answering the Ombudsman Hotline. Alice Marutani visits group homes to talk to the youth, explain what the Ombudsman Office is about and disseminates flyers and posters. Ms. Youngblood's responsibility is to audit group homes.

Mental Health Department

Jennifer Ruiz, Department of Mental Health, reported the following item:

- The Transformation program began in January 2010 to address a considerable reduction in funds. To assist clients DMH used the Periodic Early Intervention fund along with matching funds provided short term residential based practices to keep the client/patient services active. Last month, long term residential based practices were reinstated because funds became available to support the program.
- The Residential Wrap Services is only three months old and is a collaboration between DCFS and DMH. This program will provide mental health services for clients staying at one of three facilities: Hillside Home for Children (Pasadena), Five Acres (Altadena), and Hathaway-Sycamores Children & Family Services. Each agency will have at most 20 clients in the program, and the program was designed to maintain psychiatric and client service after the client is removed from the group home and reintroduced to the family. The parent actively partakes in the child's life during the group home stay, and the psychiatrist will visit and monitor the care of the client at home.
- Central and Juvenile Hall Project is a collaboration with Probation and DMH to treat severely mentally ill youth. Therapeutic Behavioral Service provides a short term intense one on one client and parent coaching by a team that teaches coping skills and discourages negative behaviors. This service also continues once the youth returns home to his/her family.

Harbor View and Star View are both placed on hold for 90 days. Harbor View was a result of a physical constraint involving a young person and the collar bone being broken, and an additional incident where abuse was determined when a youth had a bloody nose and bruises on the face and neck. Star View has a combination of problems.

Probation Department

Mike Varela, Probation Department, submitted a report on the physical conditions of Camp Scott. The report indicated improvements completed that were concerns identified by the Commission (barbed wire loose, rabbit holes, and washing machine), including the 2010 Evacuation Plan.

The Commission highly commended Mr. Varela on his thorough and comprehensive report.

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, reported that group homes recently received approximately \$200 more per resident; Group Homes are struggling to keep beds full, and had been receiving \$7,900 - \$9,000 per child. Ms. Campbell-Motton briefly reported on incidents and their data regarding group home youth (copy on file). There were 83 AWOLS, 7 AWOL twice, 46 remain AWOL, 4 returned to the home, 17 are in juvenile hall, and 1 on probation. There were five Group Home investigations and one was substantiated because the home failed to keep medications secured. Also, Probation's emergency preparedness map includes group homes for the first time. A drill was conducted to test its viability. Further, she will report back on Children Are Our Future and Child's Home for Children that are both on hold.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, reported on Inmate Assaults on Staff data, and distributed the Sheriff's Year in Review Report for 2009 (copy on file). The Report was printed by North Facility as a part of its vocational training; it highlights projects and reports on crime outcomes in specific areas. One of the projects is video arraignment which allows prisoners to be televised from jail instead of transporting them to a courthouse. A list of demographics and sworn and civilian staff are also reported. In response to Commissioner Hammargren, Commander Ruiz will ask Captain Asmus if Health and Fire Inspection reports are retained at the facility. Discussion ensued on whether this data should be included in the Inspection Reports.

Community Care Licensing

No representative in attendance. Community Care Licensing attends the meetings on a quarterly basis.

Chairperson Montaña thanked all for their very informative presentations.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of August 11, 2010 were approved as submitted.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Reviewed Los Angeles Times Newspaper article:

- *Probation Department Audit doesn't Find Fraud (8/13/2010)*
- *County OK's \$7.9 Million to Hire Probation Camp Personnel (8/18/2010)*
- *While Children Die (8/18/2010)*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Bacio, reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1, 800.93.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported that L.A. City Fare can provide breakfast items requested at a cost of \$263.40, the First Supervisorial District will place the Scholarship Award presentation on the Board of Supervisors' agenda, and a program flyer was distributed that will be provided to attendees.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM AUGUST 12, 2010 TO AUGUST 17, 2010

Carson Sheriff Station – Commissioner Moore and Hall The facility was visited on July 29, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Pinnacle Foundation – 34, #3 - Commissioner Moore The facility was visited on August 4, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of concern:** The seven day supply of food was low and staff reported that a staff member was currently at the store.

Vista Del Mar – 46, #2 - Commissioner Moore and Hall The facility was visited on August 5, 2010, however, it was not inspected as no one was home.

Rosemary Children's Services – 39, #3 - Commissioner Bigby The facility was visited on August 12, 2010, however, it was not inspected as no one was home.

B & I Group Home – 2, #1 - Commissioner Bacio The facility was visited on August 12, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Needs constant up-keep, and an emergency window release.

Inglewood Juvenile Court – Commissioner Moore The facility was visited on August 12, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Needs hand held radios and an emergency evacuation plan.

Dangerfield Group Home III – 12, #2 - Commissioner Moore The facility was visited on August 13, 2010, however, it was not inspected as no one was home.

Children's Home of Southern California – 9, #1 – Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Hammargren The facility was visited on August 16, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** One bedroom needs painting.

Inglewood Branch Courthouse – Commissioner Moore The facility was visited on August 17, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

B & I Group Home – 2, #1 – Commissioner Bacio and Hammargren The facility was visited on August 17, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** A youth is having difficulty enrolling in school.

Norwalk Branch Courthouse – Chairperson Montaña The facility was visited on August 17, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Counter top needs sanding.

Ettie Lee Home – 17, #1 - Commissioner Bigby and Hill The facility was visited on August 17, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Need to provide more juices to the boys; repair hole in wall in bedroom #1; all upstairs carpet and blinds need replacing; and two chairs need repair or replacing and another computer is needed. A follow-up inspection will be conducted in thirty days.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.